POST-INTERVIEW (3/26/04) CLAIM AMENDMENTS

Kindly amend the application, without prejudice, without admission, without surrender of subject matter and without any intention to create any estoppel as to equivalents as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A method for treating hepatitis C in an HIV-negative patient in need thereof comprising administering ribavirin (RBV) or RBV and interferon-alpha (IFN), wherein the improvement comprises administering Erythropoietin (EPO) concomitantly or sequentially or via co-administration with the RBV or with the RBV and IFN and the RBV is administered at a maximum effective dosage wherein said dosage is at or between 800-1200 mg per day. [necessary to eradicate hepatitis C.]

2. (Currently amended) A method for treating ribavirin or ribavirin and interferon-alpha induced anemia in hepatitis C patients comprising administering erythropoietin to a patient in need thereof as a liquid preparation subcutaneously, parenterally, intradermally, intramuscularly or intravenously wherein the ribavirin or ribavirin and interferon-alpha induced anemia is a result of treating said hepatitis C patients with a maximum ribavirin effective dosage wherein said dosage is at or between 800-1200 mg per day. [necessary to eradicate hepatitis C.]

3. (Currently amended) A method for treating ribavirin or ribavirin and interferon-alpha induced anemia comprising administering Erythropoietin to a patient in need thereof as a suspension, emulsion, syrup or elixir wherein the ribavirin or ribavirin and interferon-alpha induced anemia is a result of treating said patient in need thereof with a

maximum effective [ribavirin] dosage of ribavirin wherein said dosage is at or between 800-1200 mg per day. [necessary to eradicate hepatitis C.]

4. (Currently amended) A method for treating hepatitis C (HCV) and for treating ribavirin or ribavirin and interferon-alpha induced anemia employed in treating said HCV in a patient in need thereof by administering erythropoietin to the patient subcutaneously for at least about six months wherein the ribavirin or ribavirin and interferon-alpha induced anemia is a result of treating said HCV in a patient in need thereof with a maximum effective [ribavirin] dosage of ribavirin wherein said dosage is at or between 800-1200 mg per day. [necessary to eradicate said HCV.]

5. (Currently amended) A method for treating hepatitis C (HCV) and for treating ribavirin or ribavirin and interferon-alpha induced anemia employed in treating said HCV in a patient in need thereof by administering erythropoietin to the patient subcutaneously for at least about 12 months wherein the ribavirin or ribavirin and interferon-alpha induced anemia is a result of treating said HCV in a patient in need thereof with a maximum effective [ribavirin] dosage of ribavirin wherein said dosage is at or between 800-1200 mg per day. [necessary to eradicate said HCV.]

6. (Original) The method of claim 4 wherein the hepatitis C is genotype 2 and/or 3.

7. (Previously presented) The method of claim 5 wherein the hepatitis C is genotype 1 and/or 4.

8. (Currently amended) In a method for treating hepatitis C in a patient in need thereof, comprising administering ribavirin and interferon-alpha wherein the improvement comprises co-administering to the patient subcutaneously, at a pre-determined effective amount, an Erythropoietin liquid preparation wherein the ribavirin is administered in a maximum effective dosage wherein said dosage is at or between 800-1200 mg per day. [necessary to eradicate hepatitis C.]

9. (Original) The method for treating hepatitis C comprising administering ribavirin and interferon-alpha wherein the improvement as claimed in claim 8 comprises administering to patients subcutaneously at a weekly dose of about 10,000 to 70,000 units of erythropoietin.

10. (Original) The method for treating hepatitis C comprising administering ribavirin and interferon-alpha wherein the improvement as claimed in claim 8 comprises administering to patients subcutaneously at a weekly dose of about 20,000 to 60,000 units of erythropoietin.

11. (Original) The method of claim 8 wherein the patient is HIV negative.

12-26. (Canceled)